

Faculty:	Faculty of Agriculture
Project title:	Bridging Universities and Business for Enhancing Employability Skills for Students
Main donor:	IPA CBC
Period of realization:	2011 - 2012
Total budget of the project:	€ 77.615,79
UGD role within the project:	Partner institution
UGD coordinator of the project:	Sasha MITREV, PhD
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Project summary:

Enterprises' necessities for qualified staff are on the rise. On the other hand universities through their educational programs often produce staffs which are not attractive to the commercial sector. The aim of this program is to determine the gap between education institutions from both sides of the border and to improve students' employability skills.

Partner institutions:

American University in Bulgaria

Short description of the realized activities:

In order to determine the opinion from both of the parties project partners had assigned an experts whose role was to determine what is the level of satisfaction among students, related to their employability skills when they graduate and what are the feelings by the employers when they receive an application after a job offer.

A special questionnaire was developed, and both of the partner institutions did agree on its content. All the faculties which are part of Goce Delchev University participated in the survey, especially the Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Economy, Faculty of Tourism and Business Logistics, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, and Faculty of Electrical Engineering. On the other side of the border, the survey was conducted between the students from the American University in Bulgaria. The results, undoubtedly had proven that students demand more practical experience during their higher education, feeling that they have enough theory, but they lack practical skills.

The next target group for interviewing were the employers. To the last one of them, the opinion was that the graduated students need additional education, if they are to be admitted to work in their companies.

The findings were presented at the First project Conference which took place in Shtip when 40 students from both of the universities and employers from Shtip area participated.

The second part of the project was to have a workshop on which students from both of the institutions would talk, live with some of the biggest employers in Bulgaria as is Nestle. Human resources staff participated in training how to behave during a job interview, how to write a CV and what a person must say during interview process.

Equipment has been purchased for the GDU's Career center and Alumni club. After this project is finished this part of GDU will take over the responsibility to work on improvement of skills of GDU students. Two workshops were organized on which students and entrepreneurs were introduced to the findings of the research and students were able to find out what kind of skills they need to have in order to introduce themselves in front of their possible employer. Three webinar sessions were organized and participants were trained how to prepare CV and how to participate on an interview.